

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1-13 (Canceled)

14. (New) A method for manufacturing knitted articles for forming items of clothing without lateral seams, with a circular knitting machine, comprising at least one step for forming tabs, in which exclusively all or some needles that belong to a sector of a needle cylinder are moved so as to knit at at least one feed or drop of the machine, and the needle cylinder of the machine is actuated with an alternating rotary motion about its own axis, with an extent of oscillation that is sufficient to produce a transit, at said at least one feed, of all the needles of said at least one sector that are moved to knit at said at least one feed, in order to make the needles of said at least one sector that are moved to knit at said at least one feed form a preset number of rows of knitting.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein in addition to said step for forming tabs at least one step for forming a tubular portion of knitting, in which needles distributed along an entire circumferential extension of the needle cylinder of the machine are moved to knit at at least one feed or drop of the machine, is carried out either before or after said tab forming step.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said step for forming a tubular portion of knitting is performed by actuating the needle cylinder with a continuous rotary motion about its own axis.

17. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein during said tab forming step a preset number of needles located proximate to ends of said sector is actuated at said at least one feed with a selection with needles in a one-to-one inactive configuration.

18. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein during said tab forming step a preset number of needles located proximate to ends of said sector is actuated at said at least one feed with a selection with needles in a one-to-one tuck-stitch position.

30 19. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the number of needles of

said sector that are moved to knit at said at least one feed is changed according to a preset program.

20. (New) A method for producing knitted articles for forming items of clothing with shoulder straps, as set forth in claim 14, wherein said tabs 5 constitute the shoulder straps of an item of clothing, the method comprising:

-- a step for forming the shoulder straps, in which needles that belong to four sectors of the needle cylinder that are angularly spaced from each other around the needle cylinder axis are moved to knit at a different feed for each one of said sectors, and the needle cylinder is actuated with an 10 alternating rotary motion about its own axis with an extent of oscillation that is such as to produce the transit, in front of the corresponding feed, of all the needles of the correlated sector that are moved to knit;

-- a step for forming the remaining part of the article, which comprises at least one step for forming at least one tubular portion of knitting by 15 moving so as to knit, at at least one feed or drop of the machine, all or some of the needles of the needle cylinder that are distributed along the entire circumferential extension of the needle cylinder, and the needle cylinder is actuated with a continuous rotary motion about its own axis.

21. (New) A method for producing knitted articles for providing items 20 of clothing in the form of underpants as set forth in claim 14, wherein said tabs constitute front and rear regions of the underpants arranged between leg cuts, comprising:

-- a step for forming the front and rear region of the underpants, in which needles that belong to two sectors of the needle cylinder that are 25 angularly spaced from each other around the needle cylinder axis are moved to knit at a different feed for each one of said sectors, and the needle cylinder is actuated with an alternating rotary motion about its own axis with an extent of oscillation that is such as to produce the transit, in front of the corresponding feed, of all the needles of the correlated sector that are moved 30 to knit;

-- a step for forming the remaining part of the article, which comprises at least one step for forming at least one tubular portion of knitting by moving so as to knit, at at least one feed or drop of the machine, all or some of the needles of the needle cylinder that are distributed along the entire circumferential extension of the needle cylinder, and the needle cylinder is actuated with a continuous rotary motion about its own axis.

5        22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said step for forming the remaining part of the article comprises a step for forming pocket-like regions, in which some or all of the needles that belong to at least one sector of the needle cylinder are moved to knit at at least one feed of the machine, actuating the needle cylinder of the machine with an alternating motion about its own axis, with an extent of oscillation that is sufficient to produce the transit, at said at least one feed, of all the needles of said at least one sector that are moved to knit at said at least one feed, in order to form, with 10 the needles that belong to said at least one sector, a number of rows of knitting in excess with respect to the number of rows of knitting formed by the needles that do not belong to said sector.

15        23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein during said step for forming pocket-like regions some rows of knitting are also formed by moving to knit, at said at least one feed, some or all of the needles distributed along the entire circumferential extension of the needle cylinder.

20        24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein during said step for forming pocket-like regions the number of needles that belong to said sector and are moved to knit at the corresponding feed is increased gradually.

25        25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein during said step for forming pocket-like regions the number of needles that belong to said sector and are moved to knit at the corresponding feed is decreased gradually.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, comprising the forming of a double folded knitting completion border.